and they were also provided railway tickets worth Rs. 86,000 for their journey to their native State/place. The entire cost was borne by the concerned ship owners/contractors etc. The remaining 94 labourers who were not willing to go back were provided some alternative employment of their choice and were paid their back wages totalling Rs. 1,17,795 which was also borne by the shipowners/contractors etc.

These workers were found to have been employed by Shipping/Clearing Agents, Stevedors (Principal employers) Mukadams and Labour Contractors. Police complaint and Court cases have been filed under relevant Sections of the I.P.C., Cr. P.C. and the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 against companies and persons found employing these persons which are presently sub-judice. 24 persons were taken into police custody in this connection.

Implementation of Bonded Labour Abolition Act

1957. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to ensure effective implementation of Bonded Labour Abolition Act, Government have drawn out any plan of action to identify the products and areas of industry and households where use of bonded labour including child bonded labour is rampant and to free them and resettle them to enable to stand on their own feet; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved thereunder so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) As per sample survey cited by the National Commission on Rural Labour in its Report, most of the bonded labourers are employed in agriculture and allied activities.

Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 the responsibility for the rehabilitation of bonded labourers primarily rests with the State Governments concerned. To supplement the efforts of the State Government, the Govt. of India have to provide financial assistance on matching grant (50 : 50) basis to State Governments for rehabilitation of bonded labourers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme taken up since 1978-79. The Scheme as existing at present envisages provision of rehabilitation grant upto Rs. 6250 per released bonded labourer. The State Governments have been further advised to suitably integrate/dovetail in this Scheme other developmental poverty alleviation and employment generating schemes such as IRDP, JRY, TRYSEM etc. so as to pool and integrate the resources available under different schemes for the purpose of effective rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

According to reports received from the State Governments as on 31-12-93, out of the 251,424 bonded labourers identified and released, only 7655 are still to be rehabilitated.

Proposal to Change Existing Labour Laws

1958. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Labour Ministry has proposed changes in some of existing labour laws and enactment of certain new laws in the current year in order to strengthen the social security network;

(b) if so, whether these proposed changes are related to the Workmen's Compensation Act and Minimum Wages Act;

(c) whether the new legislation will also deal with the welfare of agriculture and construction workers;

(d) whether any concrete amendments likely to be introduced have been decided upon; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?